

Serial No. 10/518,211
Reply to non-final Office Action of June 22, 2010

PATENT
PU020299
Customer No. 24498

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Remarks/Arguments

In the non-final Office Action dated June 16, 2010, claims 1-11 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, and 10 constitute independent claims.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, and 11 stand rejected. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 9 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and also rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 10 for clarification purposes. Support for these amendments exists at page 2, lines 8-13 and page 2, lines 22-24 of applicants' specification as originally filed. Applicants have added no new subject matter.

Rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Page 2 of the Office Action alleges that the phrase "wherein the linearly expandable router is expandable by. . ." renders the claims indefinite. The Examiner suggests changing the word "expandable" to "expanded."

Applicants thank the Examiner for the suggestion and applicants have amended independent claims 1, 7, and 10 pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion to clarify the claim language. As such, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Rejection of claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Pat 6,781,408 to Langhammer ("Langhammer").

Applicants respectfully submit that for at least the following reasons, claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, and 11 are not anticipated by Langhammer.

Claim 1 recites, in part, as follows:

a first discrete link, said first discrete link coupling
said input side of said first routing engine to said input side
of said second routing engine;

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a second discrete link, said second discrete link coupling said input side of said first routing engine to said input side of said third routing engine; and
a third discrete link, said third discrete link coupling said input side of said second routing engine to said input side of said third routing engine. . . . (Emphasis added).

The Office Action alleges that FIG. 6 of Langhammer shows links that contain programmable logic connectors 651 a/b that interconnect the inputs of the input circuitry 135 via general interconnection resources 120. At the bottom of page 4 through the top of page 5, the Office Action alleges that Langhammer discloses discrete links made up of PLC's 651a/b that interconnect the inputs. Applicants respectfully traverse these arguments.

A "discrete link" as used in Applicants' specification constitutes a link not connected to or part of something else. For example, Applicants' specification at page 2, lines 8-13 recites:

In the embodiment of the invention comprised of first, second and third routing engines, a first discrete link couples the input side of the first routing engine to the input side of the second routing engine. Similarly, a second discrete link couples the input side of the first routing engine to the input side of the third routing engine and a third discrete link couples the input side of the second routing engine to the input side of the third routing engine. Emphasis added.

Also, Applicants' specification at page 2, lines 22-24 recites:

When the broadcast router components of a linearly expandable broadcast router are arranged in a fully connected topology, each broadcast router component is connected to each and every one of the other broadcast router components by a discrete link. Emphasis added.

Furthermore, Applicants' Figure 1 illustrates four routing engines where discrete links couple the input sides of each routing engine. Applicants discrete link do not encompass another element.

In contrast to Applicants' claim 1, Langhammer does not disclose the input sides of the routing engines coupled by discrete links. For example, Langhammer at Fig. 6c and Column 7, lines 56-61, discloses that the input signals appear on an input bus 650

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a/b which connected to a PLC 651 a/b. The input bus does not constitute a "discrete link" as set forth in Applicants' claim 1.

The "discrete link" of Applicants' claim 1 differs from the connections at the input sides of the routing engines as disclosed by Langhammer because, unlike Langhammer, applicants' discrete link is not connected to or part of another element. Instead, Langhammer's links comprise an input bus 650 a/b and a PLC 651 a/b. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Langhammer does not anticipate claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection to claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Independent claims 7 and 10 differ from claim 1 in the following respect. For example, claim 7 recites "means for coupling said at least three broadcast router components," whereas, claim 10 recites a method, while claim 1 recites a linearly expandable router. Although different from claim 1, claims 7 and 10 include patentable subject matter similar to the discussion of claim 1 as explained above.

The Office Action uses substantially the same arguments as set forth with regard to claim 1 to reject claims 7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Langhammer. Applicants essentially repeat the above arguments for claim 1 and apply them to claims 7 and 10. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 7 and 10 are in condition for allowance under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Each of dependent claims 4, 8, and 11 depends from and incorporates all the features of an allowable base claim. Furthermore, each dependent claim includes additional distinguishing features. For each dependent claim, Applicants essentially repeat the above arguments from claim 1 and apply them to the dependent claim. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 4, 8, and 11 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on an allowable parent claim, and respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection to claims 4, 8, and 11.

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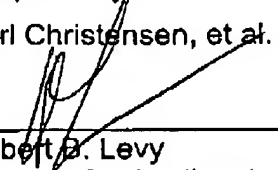
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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicants solicit entry of this amendment and allowance of the claims. If the Examiner cannot take such action, the Examiner should contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6820 to arrange a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview.

Respectfully submitted,
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